(c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken in consultation and coordination with the State Government of Orissa to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) As per Census of India 2001 the female literacy rate in Orissa is 50.97%.

(b) The reasons for low female literacy in some districts of Orissa include poverty and economic backwardness, poor communication and geographical isolation and gender based inequality.

(c) A new scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) has been started for universalisation of elementary education in a mission mode with district as a focus. SSA is to provide useful and relevant elementary education for all children in 6-14 age-group by 2010.

National literacy Mission has identified certain districts in Orissa having low female literacy and formulated a special project for female literacy in consultation with the State Government. The project aims at improving literacy of adult non-literate women in the age group of 15-35 in the identified districts with active involvement of Non-Governmental Organisations.

UNESCO Doot

2168. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Hindi Directorate of the Ministry published two lakh copies of "UNESCO Doot" during 1996-2001, whose one lakh and thirty six thousand copies remain uncirculated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against those responsible for non-circulation of the said book to school children on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central Hindi Directorate (CHD) has reported that about 5000 copies of UNESCO Doot are still in the stock as on date. Action is being taken to utilize the uncirculated copies in the stock and will be liquidated very soon.